

7 July 1983

Annex: Estimated Cuban Combat Forces Available for Operations in Nicaragua

Force

<u>Component</u>	<u>Total Size</u>	<u>Available for Deployment</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Army	60,000-70,000 active-duty personnel in Cuba, armed with a variety of ground weapons systems, plus over 100,000 reservists available for immediate activation. Hundreds of thousands of additional reservists available over the longer term.	As many as 30,000 personnel, mostly reservists.	As most personnel likely to be mobilized reservists, number available would depend more on the impact of the mobilization on the civilian economy than on military considerations. Most reservists would require at least a few weeks training prior to deployment. Lightly armed troops could be airlifted, heavy equipment must be shipped by sea.
Landing and Assault Brigade	1,500 lightly armed troops, plus unknown number of reservists	Nearly all	Elite force; airborne qualified. Could be quickly airlifted into area. [redacted] dedicated airlift support probably includes 16 to 18 AN-26 and two AN-24 transport aircraft, and four to six MI-8 transport helicopters.
Special Troops	2,500 lightly armed troops, plus unknown number of reservists.	At least 1,500 active-duty personnel, plus reserves.	Elite force subordinate to Ministry of Interior; trained for a variety of specialized tasks associated with unconventional warfare, such as airborne operations, sabotage, and the use of explosives. Could be quickly airlifted into area.

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Annex (cont'd)

<u>Component</u>	<u>Total Size</u>	<u>Available for Deployment</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Air Force	18,500 personnel, including 675 pilots. Aircraft include: 100-120 MIG-21 jet fighters 34 MIG-23 jet fighters 30 L-39 jet trainers 12 MI-24 attack helicopters 14-26 MI-8 attack helicopters	30-35 MIG-21s and MIG-23s (primarily MIG-21s) 15-20 L-39s 10-12 MI-24s or MI-8s	Estimate of aircraft available primarily based on number of additional aircraft delivered since late 1981 and number of aircraft assigned to training, rather than operational, bases. Most effective employment would require basing in Central America, as only limited operations could be conducted from Cuba. Fighters have sufficient range to fly there, but helicopters must be shipped.
Navy	12,000 personnel, including a 400 to 500-man naval infantry unit and a 70-man frogman unit. Combatants include: 2 F-class attack submarines 1 Koni-class frigate 2 Polnocny-class landing ships 22 Osa- and Komar-class guided-missile patrol boats 6 Turya-class torpedo boats 12 Sonya- and Yevgenya-class minesweepers	All naval infantry personnel and frogmen Two landing ships Possibly 1 submarine Five older Osa-I and four Komar-class patrol boats Possibly a few minesweepers	Naval infantry equipment includes at least eight amphibious BTR-60 armored personnel carriers and four PT-76 light tanks. Each Polnocny can carry either 180 troops or six armored vehicles with crews up to 1500 miles. Frogman unit reportedly trained in explosives and mine placement, shore infiltration, and sabotage. Elements reportedly provided port security in Angola in 1975 and 1976.

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